

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 08264 091547Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00  
DLOS-09 OES-07 /047 W  
-----100208Z 002973 /72

R 091227Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3981  
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB IN  
SUBJ: THREAT OF ALL-INDIA PORT STRIKE JUNE 16

1. THE EIGHT MAJOR PORTS OF INDIA ARE THREATENED WITH AN INDEFINITE STRIKE BEGINNING JUNE 16 OVER ISSUES OF REVISION OF WAGES AND BENEFITS. THE POWERFUL ALL-INDIA PORT AND DOCKWORKERS FEDERATION (AIPDWF) ISSUED THE STRIKE NOTICE AT THE PORTS OF BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, MADRAS, COCHIN, KANDLA, VISHAKHAPATNAM, PARADIP AND MORMUGAO. THE AIPDWF HAS ALSO CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS ON ITS DEMANDS, RIVAL PORT UNIONS HAVE MADE NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR INTENTIONS BUT ARE LIKELY TO JOIN THE STRIKE IF IT OCCURS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF LABOR COMMISSIONER HAS BEGUN CONCILIATION EFFORTS BETWEEN THE AIPDWF AND THE PORT AUTHORITIES. THE OUTCOME OF SUCH EFFORTS IS PRESENTLY UPRREDICTABLE, HOWEVER, AND THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO APPRISE US SHIPPING INTERESTS OF THE STRIKE THREAT.

2. THE APPROXIMATELY 200,000 PORTS AND DOCKWORKERS HAD  
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STAGED A FOUR-DAY ALL-INDIA STRIKE IN JANUARY 1975 OVER THE SAM ISSUES AND WON INTERIM WAGE INCREASES AND THE ASSURANCE THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF A WAGE REVISION COMMITTEE WOULD BE EXPEDITED. THE WAGE REVISION COMMITTEE SUBMITTED ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN LATE 1976, BUT THE UNIONS ARE SAID TO BE DISSATISFIED BECAUSE THEY HAD NO REPRESENTATION ON THE COMMITTEE AND

THEY CONSIDER THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDED WAGE INCREASES AS TOO LOW.

3. THE ISSUES IN THE THREATENED ALL-INDIA STRIKE ARE UNRELATED TO THE RECENT 11-DAY STRIKE OF THE SEVERAL THOUSAND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOMBAY PORT TRUST WHO WERE PROTESTING AGAINST UNILATERAL CHANGES IN THEIR WORKING CONDITIONS DURING THE EMERGENCY.

4. COMMENT: GIVEN THE DIRE CONSEQUENCES TO THE ECONOMY OF A PORT PARALYSIS, THE AIPDWF'S THREATENED STRIKE HAS RECEIVED SURPRISINGLY LIMITED PRESS COVERAGE AND EVOKED NO COMMENT AS YET FROM SENIOR POLITICAL LEADERS. THIS MAY REFLECT A DESIRE ON BOTH SIDES TO INITIATE MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS IN A CALM ATMOSPHERE. SINCE ONE OF THE UNION'S MAJOR GRIEVANCES IS ITS EXCLUSION FROM THE WAGE COMMITTEE, ONCE NEGOTIATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT BEGIN ON THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS, THE AIPDWF MAY BELIEVE IT HAS GAINED THIS POINT AND MAY BE WILLING TO EXTEND THE STRIKE DEADLINE IF PROGRESS APPEARS POSSIBLE. GOHEEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR STRIKES, PORTS, LABOR OBJECTIVES  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** ELAB, EWWT, IN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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